



HR0779

LRB101 20840 ECR 70615 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Yingying Zhang arrived at the University of
3 Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in April of 2017 to contribute
4 to research in the Department of Natural Resources and
5 Environmental Sciences; and

6 WHEREAS, Yingying Zhang was an environmental engineering
7 scholar from Nanping, a small city in the Fujian province in
8 southeast China, where her parents and boyfriend lived; and

9 WHEREAS, In June of 2017, Zhang went missing after getting
10 into a black SUV near the UIUC campus; and

11 WHEREAS, After an extensive investigation and search
12 efforts by local, state, and federal authorities, Yingying
13 Zhang was declared dead in the summer of 2017; and

14 WHEREAS, The loss of Zhang's life devastated the
15 Champaign-Urbana community, the academic community, and the
16 global community; UIUC honored Zhang's life with a number of
17 vigils and rallies; and

18 WHEREAS, Detective Eric Stiverson of the University of
19 Illinois Police Department was one of two interrogators in an
20 initial interview with the main suspect, Brendt Christensen, in

1 Yingying Zhang's case; and

2 WHEREAS, Detective Stiverson leaned on his experience as a
3 seasoned interrogator to encourage Brendt Christensen to admit
4 that he did indeed pick up Yingying Zhang, and the
5 investigation unfolded from there; and

6 WHEREAS, Detective Stiverson's interrogation helped secure
7 Brendt Christensen's conviction, and he was sentenced to life
8 in prison without parole; and

9 WHEREAS, Detective Stiverson has served as an investigator
10 and interrogator for the University of Illinois Police
11 Department, Champaign County, and the State of Illinois for
12 over 20 years; in 2005, he served as a deputy sheriff for the
13 Piatt County Sheriff's Office in Monticello, Illinois, where he
14 was assigned to patrol; in 2012, he transferred to the
15 University of Illinois Police Department in Urbana, Illinois,
16 where he served as a patrol officer until becoming a detective
17 in 2015; he has conducted numerous death investigations as well
18 as several high-profile homicide investigations; therefore, be
19 it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
21 HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
22 without Detective Stiverson's skilled interrogation, it is

1 likely this case could have gone unsolved; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That due to Detective Stiverson's work, Yingying
3 Zhang's family at least has the comfort of knowing who was
4 responsible for her devastating murder, and we send our deepest
5 sympathies and condolences to the Zhang family; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That we commend Detective Stiverson for his
8 exemplary work in the murder case of Yingying Zhang and for his
9 service to Champaign County and the entire state of Illinois.